

IV. IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Presently amended) A gutter ~~cover~~ hanger apparatus for engagement between the front portion and rear portion of a rain gutter having a generally U-shaped transverse cross-sectional shape and for additional engagement with a roof-supported cover extending toward said rain gutter, comprising:

a one-piece bottom-located rain gutter support structure having a top portion and a bottom portion, first and second opposed ends, and a middle portion located on said top portion between said first and second ends,

a first gutter engagement portion which extends forward and upward from said first end of said a front portion of said bottom-located one-piece support structure for engaging the front portion of said rain gutter,

a gutter cover engagement portion which extends forward and upward from said a middle portion of said bottom-located support structure for engaging the roof-supported cover, wherein said gutter cover engagement portion is located at an elevated position relative to said gutter engagement portion, and

a second gutter engagement portion, said second gutter engagement portion comprising a support-fastener-reception portion which extends upward from a rear portion of said bottom-located said second end of said one-piece support structure for engaging the rear portion of the rain gutter.

2. (Presently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said support-fastener-reception portion includes a fastener-reception channel which extends downwardly and rearwardly obliquely with respect to said second end of said one-piece ~~bottom located~~ support structure.

3. (Presently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said support-fastener-reception portion extends upwardly and rearwardly obliquely with respect to said ~~bottom located~~ top portion of said one-piece support structure.

4. (Presently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein:

said first gutter engagement portion extends above the ~~bottommost surface of said bottom located~~ said bottom portion of said one-piece support structure by a first height,

said gutter cover engagement portion extends above the ~~bottommost surface of said bottom located~~ said bottom portion of said one-piece support structure by a second height, and

said second height is greater than said first height.

5. (Presently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said first gutter cover engagement portion includes a convex ~~front end~~ portion.

6. (Presently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said first gutter engagement portion includes an L-shaped gutter engagement end portion.

7. (Presently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said ~~bottom-located~~ one-piece support structure includes reinforcement means for reinforcing said first gutter engagement portion and said gutter cover engagement portion.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further including a cover having a first edge and an opposed second edge, said first edge being adapted to engage said gutter cover engagement portion and be supported thereby.

9. (Presently Amended) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said first edge of said cover is complementary in shape to said gutter cover engagement end portion.

10. (Presently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said first edge of said cover is concave and said gutter cover engagement portion is convex to permit said cover first edge to be snap-fitted on said cover engagement convex end portion.

11. (Presently amended) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said reinforcement means comprise at least one transverse rib member extending obliquely between said ~~bottom~~

~~located~~ bottom portion of said one-piece support structure and said gutter cover engagement portion.

12. (Presently Amended) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said reinforcement means comprise a plurality of transverse rib members extending obliquely between said ~~bottom~~ located bottom portion and said top portion of said one-piece support structure ~~and said gutter cover engagement portion.~~

13. (Presently Amended) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein said plurality of reinforcement means comprises at least one of said transverse rib members extending at a first angle between said ~~bottom-located~~ bottom portion and said top portion of said one-piece support structure ~~and said gutter cover engagement portion~~ and at least one other transverse rib member extending at a second angle between said bottom portion and said top portion of said one-piece ~~bottom-located~~ support structure ~~and said gutter cover engagement portion.~~

14. (Presently Amended) The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said reinforcement means comprises a central transverse web member extending ~~commonly~~ obliquely from said bottom portion of said one-piece support structure through said ~~bottom-located support structure~~ and at least said gutter cover engagement portion.

15. (Presently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~14~~ 7 wherein said reinforcement means comprises a central transverse web member further extending commonly through said gutter engagement portion.

16. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said top portion between said second end of said one-piece support structure and said middle portion of said one-piece support structure is characterized by a concave top surface.

17. (New) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said support-fastener-reception portion extends upwardly and rearwardly obliquely with respect to said top portion of said one-piece support structure and forms a portion of said concave top surface.